

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2002 LB 1310

there. Obviously, it attracted some attention, and it is taxpayers' money. So until there's a need shown that they can't live with a \$10 million minimum and a \$20 million maximum, why that's what this amendment does, is cap it at 20; kicks the fees back in, same rate, nine-tenths of a cent a gallon on no lead, three-tenths of a cent on other products, when it reaches \$10 million and builds back up. And you can see from the charts that Senator Bromm provided us, even with the current activity the level it is. And they're out there actively pursuing these clean-up situations and closing these abandoned sites and so on, getting them off the books, so to speak. The fund has obviously grown a whole bunch since '98 to thirty plus million dollars. So I would ask you to support this amendment. It's AM3212 and it's on your screens now, and that's all I can add to what Senator Coordsen had to say. I think it's needed and it will work. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Baker, Chambers, Coordsen, Schrock, Bromm, Kremer, and Vrtiska. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The amount of the money in the fund right now, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Wehrbein, if I could ask you a question, I'm trying to recall, the amount of the money in the fund right now was in the neighborhood of \$30 million?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And the judgment of DEQ was that...and the Governor's Office, was that \$6 million is what could be taken from this fund that otherwise that money was needed for the purpose it was being used. Is that correct?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes. It...\$6 million represents about a half year's revenue. But...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So that would reduce the fund to \$24 million,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.